

APPENDIX A: HISTORY OF THE GLOSSARY

A.1. Historical Background

Use of standardized vocabulary for telecommunications terminology assists in ensuring reliability and interoperability of telecommunications products and services. The benefits to the users of strong, accepted standards include (a) the control of product quality, which promotes trade, (b) the interoperability of equipment and services, which promotes communication and productivity, and (c) the support of interdependent national economies, which reduces the cost of doing business by amplifying the benefits of economies of scale while reducing the need for retooling and retrofitting [1].

To secure these benefits for the U.S. telecommunications community in the world market and to assist in satisfying the Federal Government's mission of enhancing reliability and ensuring interoperability of the Government's resources, the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences (ITS)—under the sponsorship of the National Communications System (NCS)—has led the development of a telecommunications glossary and its revisions for the last 25 years.

A1.1 History of the Glossary

This report describes the e-mail and computerized processes used for the recent updating of FED-STD-1037C (1996) to *Telecom Glossary 2000*, which was adopted as an American National Standard in February 2001. The previous editions of this popular glossary span 25 years.

From 1974 to 1996, ITS has held a leadership role in developing and updating the 1996 Federal Standard 1037 (FED-STD-1037C), *Glossary of Telecommunication Terms*, and its predecessor documents. (See Figure 1.) The 1037C Glossary is available on the Web at

<http://glossary.its.blrdoc.gov/fs-1037/>

The popular FED-STD 1037C was updated using exclusively electronic means: the ITS editors created interactive Web pages and e-mail communications paths to unite the geographically dispersed committee of experts and to collect their definitions, reviews, and technical comments in an efficient, timely manner. The result of this effort is a new American National Standard, a glossary of telecommunication terms called *Telecom Glossary 2000*. The new American National Standard is slated to be available free of charge to the public on the ATIS (Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions)/T1 Web site as well as on the ITS Web site

<http://www.its.blrdoc.gov/projects/telecomglossary2000> .

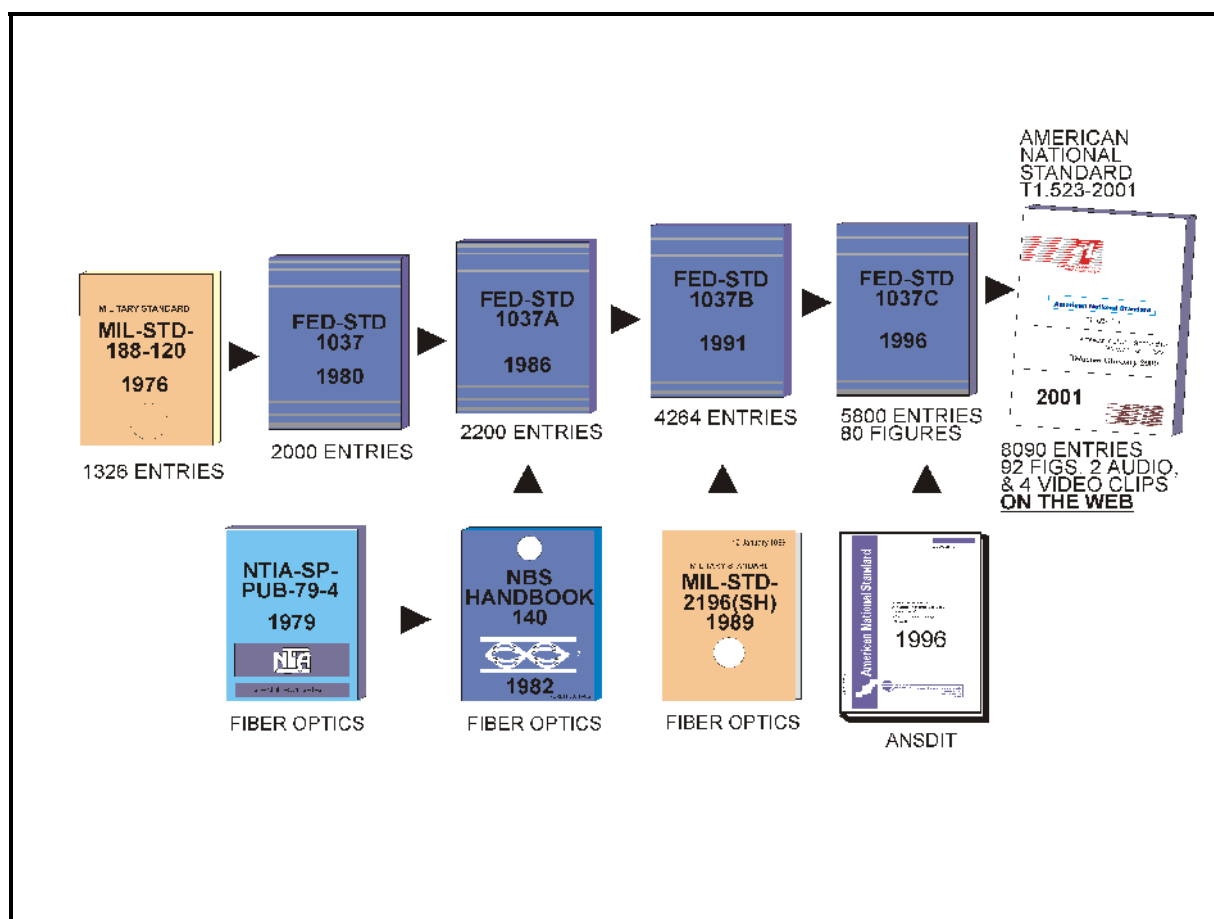


Figure A-1. History of the development of the ANS T1.523-2001 glossary.

With foresight, the glossary's sponsors recognized the need to update the 1996 edition to advance the interoperability, reliability, and operational effectiveness of telecommunications equipment and services by standardizing telecommunications terminology used in technical specifications. They particularly wished to accommodate new Web/Internet terminology, and to address security and infrastructure-protection terms. The sponsors and editors, as members of the Federal Government, remain committed to the use of voluntary industry standards whenever such standards exist or can be developed. Further, the developers worked to retain the glossary's wide acceptance, credibility, and usefulness, by preserving its status as a standard (see Sections 1.2 and 1.3 above), rather than changing it to a Federal Telecommunications Recommendation.

The ITS editors spoke with representatives of three different standards-development organizations (SDO's), to select one for release and promulgation of the new standard. The editors selected the T1 standards community for co-hosting the work of revising the glossary.

The advantages of selecting this group were that ITS has some leadership responsibilities in the T1A1 Technical Subcommittee (TSC) on Performance and Signal Processing and, therefore, can provide an energizing force and a useful level of control in guiding the revision of the document. The contributions of Committee T1 participants expanded the revised standard's content and consensus base, and its publication as a T1-developed American National Standard maximized its benefit to the U.S. telecommunications industry.